

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet Thursday, April 19, 2007 from 10 a.m. to noon in Dirksen 562 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

Agenda

Biodental Hormones.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, FEDERAL SERVICES, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services and International Security be authorized to meet on Thursday, April 19, 2007 at 2 p.m. for a hearing entitled, "The Road Ahead: Implementing Postal Reform."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces be authorized to meet in open and closed sessions during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 19, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., to receive testimony on military space programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2008 and the future years defense program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, we will return tomorrow in session to discuss the competitiveness bill now pending and to have debate only and then consider amendments, and we hope to vote on it early next week.

As far as our meeting this week in the Senate, we are able to point to the passage of the court security bill, which is an important piece of legislation. Unfortunately, it is a bill that took 2 days, and it should have taken 20 minutes. During the course of 2 days, we had a general debate about budget deficits and a debate which started and ended without a vote on splitting up the Ninth Circuit. It was time for some Members to bring up issues of importance to them, but I would suggest we have a limited amount to show for our activity this week because of activities on the other side of the aisle.

Twice we were stopped in efforts to call up important legislation. We wanted to have the reauthorization of the intelligence agencies in America so that they are prepared to deal in the most effective way in fighting terrorism. Unfortunately, there was re-

sistance from the Republican side of the aisle, and we weren't able to do so. The bill had to be pulled from debate on the floor and put back on the calendar for another day. Then we wanted to move to the Medicare prescription Part D Program. Those of us on the Democratic side think it is important to have a debate as to whether Medicare can offer less expensive, more affordable drugs to seniors and disabled people. The pharmaceutical companies don't like this idea. The current system is very profitable for them. They have mounted a very expensive campaign to stop any suggestion of changing Medicare prescription Part D. It would have been a lively debate, an important debate, followed closely by many seniors and their families but, unfortunately, once again, the Republican minority, within their rights, stopped us from moving to that important debate.

So for two very substantive issues, we were stopped this week from the kind of progress which I think people expect us to make. Even if we disagree between the parties, there should be a spirit of cooperation here, at least when it comes to honest debate in a reasonable period of time and then an up-or-down vote and then move on, but we couldn't reach that point this week. Sadly, the only bill that passed was the Court Security Act, as important as it is. It should have passed very quickly without controversy. It took us 2 days.

Now we have a very important bill before us, which I think is long overdue. I wish to thank Senator ALEXANDER from Tennessee and Senator BINGAMAN for being the lead sponsors on this bill. I hope the debate tomorrow will lead to some amendments the beginning of next week and then to passage. America needs to maintain the competitive edge in so many parts of our economy, particularly when it comes to manufacturing, and this bill could be very positive.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 761

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that on Friday, April 20, at 10:30 a.m., the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 70, S. 761, the America COMPETES Act, and that during Friday's session there be debate only with no amendments in order to the bill; further, that on Tuesday, April 24, during consideration of S. 761, Senator COBURN be recognized to speak for 1 hour.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, and after consultation with the Republican leader, pursuant to Public Law 106-286, appoints the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the

People's Republic of China: the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ).

AMENDING THE ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1978

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1130, and that the Senate then proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1130) to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to extend the authority to withhold from public availability a financial disclosure report filed by an individual who is a judicial officer or judicial employee, to the extent necessary to protect the safety of that individual or a family member of that individual, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1130) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2007

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. Friday, April 20; that on Friday following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; that at 10:30 the Senate begin consideration of S. 761, the America COMPETES Act, as provided for under a previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, if there is no further business today, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:45 p.m., adjourned until Friday, April 20, at 10 a.m.